

~~SECRET~~

2 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT : Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

1. Reference is made to this Agency's out message number 94270 dated 25 April 1968 concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

2. On 16 April Roderick Claflin BROWN, a Panamanian national born 1 July 1917 in British Honduras, voluntarily appeared at the Department of National Investigations (DENI) of the Republic of Panama and signed a deposition, the highlights of which are as follows:

(1) On 26 October 1962 he served as cook/seaman aboard the Texaco S.S. Southhampton which docked at Mobile, Alabama.

(2) While on a shore visit to the Mobile airport on the morning of 26 October 1962 in the company of two fellow Panamanian seamen, he was approached by Marvin P. LITRELL, owner of LITRELL Motor Co., 921-25 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama, who after ascertaining BROWN was a Panamanian seaman, asked if he knew of Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

(3) LITRELL inquired whether BROWN was interested in employment, the details of which were unspecified. He went on to describe Dr. KING as "Our greatest problem who is causing us much trouble." He gave BROWN a business card to use in the event he was interested in pursuing the employment offer.

(4) On 28 January 1963 BROWN wrote LITRELL from New York City, stating he was interested in a job and

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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In 7/22/97

06444

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-2-

requested \$75 for travel from New York City to Mobile. On 2 February 1963 BROWN received a reply from LITTRELL, restating that he had a job waiting for BROWN in Alabama, but questioning why \$75 was needed since the fare was less than \$40 by bus.

(5) After discussions with a relative and friends in New York City, BROWN suspected that the LITTRELL job offer was related with assassination plans for Dr. KING. Therefore he did not respond to the LITTRELL letter and dismissed the incident until the death of Dr. KING in April 1968. BROWN returned to Panama in 1964. ✓

3. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the LITTRELL letter and the Spanish language deposition made by BROWN, as well as an English translation of the deposition as described in paragraph 2 of the referenced out message.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

Signed: James R. Hunt

JAMES ANGLETON

WH/2
CSCI-316/01702-68

3 Enclosures

WH/2/Panama/

2 May 1968

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee, w/atts
1 - CI/R&A (Dummy)
1 - CI/LIA (Dummy)
2 - CI/OPS/DO, w/atts ✓
1 - WH/2/Panama

Based on: PANAMA CITY 6180 (IN 97566)

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

30 NOV 1964

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM : Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : Martin Luther KING, Jr.

W/ED	☒	TRAVEL PROGRAM
W/INT	☒	ABSTRACT
W/IN	☒	INDEX
	☒	PREPARE FOR FILING
	☒	FILE
	☒	FORM NO. (2, 3, 4)
	☒	REPORT CASE LOG
	☒	FILE NO. (11)
	☒	NO. (2)
	☒	FOR FILING

1. Reference is made to a communication from your Bureau dated 28 August 1964 concerning proposed travel to Western Europe of Martin Luther KING, Jr. Reference noted that Subject planned to visit Rome, Italy, on 18 and 19 September 1964.

2. This Agency has received the following information on Subject from a source who is considered unreliable. Dr. Martin Luther KING met with various leaders of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) and of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) on 18 September 1964 in Rome. He discussed with these Italian politicians the program of demonstrations against segregation in the United States which are to be organized in Italy during the months immediately ahead. Dr. KING reportedly conferred with PCI Senators Velio SPANO and Ugo BARTESAGHI, with PSI Senator Paolo VITTORELLI, and with Deputy Lucio LOZZATO of the Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity (PSIUP).

3. This Agency is unable to evaluate the above report.

4. The information in paragraph two has been made available to your Bureau's representative in Rome.

CSCG-316/02051-64

1 ans (24 November 1964)

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - CI
- 1 - CI/ISA
- ✓ 1 - FI (201-760766)
- 2 - WF/L/CE

Based on: OIRT-6733 dated 20 October 1964

~~SECRET~~
~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

CS COPY

06445

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

201	740	966
30 Nov 1964		

DISPATCH

~~SECRET~~

PROCESSING

TO	Chief/	PROPOSED	XX	ACTION	MARKED FOR INDEXING	ACCOMPLISHED
INFO.	Chief/WH Division				NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
FROM	Chief of Station,				ONLY QUALIFIED HEADQUARTERS DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING	
SUBJECT	Surveillance on IDEN C				ABSTRACT	
					MICROFILM	

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information

1. IDEN A, a cleared and witting contact, provided the following information which was obtained during a surveillance of IDEN C. The surveillance was a joint effort of IDEN A and local ODENVY. ODENVY is not aware that IDEN A has passed the information to JMWAVE.

2. On Thursday, 19 May 1966, a surveillance was instituted from Room 618 of IDEN B on adjoining Room 620, which was occupied by IDEN C and his aide IDEN D. The surveillance was initiated at 11:00 a.m. and terminated at 5:15 p.m. During the conversation between IDENS C and D and another unknown Negro male, believed to be IDEN E, references were made to the Florida Gubernatorial Race; a trip to Bimini; and several miscellaneous sex experiences.

3. On 20 May 1966 a search was made of rooms 620 and 622 after IDENS C and D moved out. Forwarded under separate cover are copies of items found in the waste baskets and dressers; a hotel bill, and a list of telephone numbers which were called on 18 - 19 May 1966.

4. Of special interest among these items was a note which stated; IDEN F, please call Long Distance Operator IDEN G. IDEN H, according to IDEN A, is an identified member of the Communist Party. Also, an envelope of IDEN B with the name IDEN I. This person may have been one of the occupants of the room who remained in the company of IDENS C and D overnight.

5. JMWAVE traces were negative on all personalities mentioned above as well as those names appearing in the date forwarded under separate cover. JMWAVE has carded only those personalities who reside in the JMWAVE area.

Attachment:

A.IDENS A-I u/s/c

B.ITEMS u/s/c

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - Chief, WH Division w/o att

CROSS REFERENCE TO

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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declassification

DATE TYPED

DATE DISPATCHED

15 July 1966

JUL 18 1966

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

UFGT - 16828

HEADQUARTERS FILE NUMBER

06446

CONTINUATION OF
DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

ATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

~~SECRET~~
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UFGT - 16828

Separate Cover Attachment A to UFGT - 16828

IDEN A Lt. Leslie J. Van Buskirk
Chief, Criminal Intelligence
Dade County Public Safety (Metro)
Miami, Florida

IDEN B Miami International Airport

IDEN C Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Corded*

IDEN D Bernard Lee *Corded* → This is a bond in
Bernard S. Lee, a
SCLC, S. Lee, a
New (1968) Associa
To R. L. S. Lee, a
9/2/68

IDEN E Dr. Brown

IDEN F Dr. King, Jr.

IDEN G #71, Hemstead, N.Y.
Telephone # 487-5199
Mr. Harry Wachtell and signed Lillian

IDEN H Mr. Harry Wachtell

IDEN I Miss Maxine Thurston

Distribution:

1 - Chief, WH Division